

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method for collection of blood comprising:
positioning a body portion, from which blood is to be withdrawn, within a shield member such that the shield member is generally disposed between the body portion and a hand of a user;
stabilizing the body portion within the shield member solely using a digit of the user's hand; and
inserting an insertion member of a blood extraction device into the body portion such that the shield member is generally disposed between the insertion member and the user's hand.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising holding the shield member in one hand of the user while accomplishing said inserting using another hand of the user.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a shield member, one portion of which is configured to be releasably held in said one hand and another portion of which is configured and arranged to releasably receive the body portion.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the another portion of the provided shield member includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the shield member, in which is received the body portion.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the recess and said one portion of the provided shield member is each one of arcuate or polygonal in cross-section.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the provided shield member is configured and arranged so as to be in the general shape of a hollow tube cut in half along its length.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising withdrawing blood from the body portion using the blood extraction device following said step of inserting.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
stopping the withdrawal of blood; and
withdrawing the insertion member of the blood extraction device from the body portion.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 further comprising:
stopping the withdrawal of blood;
withdrawing the insertion member of the blood extraction device from the body portion;
removing the digit of the user's hand; and
removing the body portion from the shield member.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the blood is umbilical cord blood.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the body portion is the umbilical cord, wherein said inserting includes inserting the insertion member into the umbilical cord.

14. (Original) The blood collection method of claim 13 further comprising withdrawing cord blood from the umbilical cord using the blood extraction device following the step of inserting the insertion member.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the blood extraction device comprises a needle and syringe.

16. (Previously presented) A method for collection of umbilical cord blood comprising:

positioning an umbilical cord within a shield member;
stabilizing the umbilical cord within the shield member solely using a digit of the user's hand; and
contacting the cord with a blood extraction device.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the shield member is generally disposed between the cord and a hand of a medical practitioner.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the blood extraction device comprises a needle and syringe.

19. (Currently amended) A shielding device comprising:
a cradle member, said cradle member being configured so one portion thereof is releasably held in a hand of a user, so another portion thereof releasably receives the ~~body portion~~ an umbilical cord, and so a digit of the user's hand secures and stabilizes the ~~body portion~~ umbilical cord in the another portion while holding the cradle member wherein the ~~cradle member~~ shielding device does not include any type of fastening mechanism such that the digit of the user's hand solely fastens the ~~body portion~~ umbilical cord to the cradle member.

20. (Currently amended) The shield device of claim 19 wherein said another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the cradle member, in which recess is received the ~~body portion~~ umbilical cord.

21. (Original) The shield device of claim 19 wherein the recess is one of arcuate or polygonal in cross-section.

22. (Original) The shield device of claim 20 wherein said one portion is configured so as to be one of arcuate or polygonal in cross-section.

23. (Original) The shield device of claim 19 wherein the cradle member is configured and arranged so as to be in the general shape of a hollow tube cut in half along its length.

24. (Original) The shield device of claim 19 wherein the cradle member is made from stainless steel and/or medical grade plastic.

25. (Currently amended) An apparatus for extracting cord blood from an umbilical cord comprising:

a shielding device comprising a cradle member, said cradle member being configured and arranged so one portion thereof is ~~releasably~~ held in a hand of a user, so another portion thereof ~~releasably~~ receives the umbilical cord, and so a digit of the user's hand secures and stabilizes the umbilical cord in said another portion while holding the cradle member; and

a blood extraction device including an insertion member being configured so as to be inserted into the umbilical cord and to withdraw cord blood therefrom

wherein the ~~cradle member~~ shielding member is devoid of mechanisms for fastening the umbilical cord to the shielding member.

26. (Currently amended) A blood collection device kit comprising:

a shielding device including a cradle member, said cradle member being configured and arranged so one portion thereof is ~~releasably~~ held in a hand of a user, so another portion thereof ~~releasably~~ receives ~~the body portion~~ an umbilical cord, and so a digit of the user's hand secures and stabilizes the ~~body portion~~ umbilical cord in said another portion while holding the cradle member and wherein ~~cradle member~~ shielding device is devoid mechanisms for fastening the ~~body portion~~ umbilical cord to the ~~cradle member~~ shielding device.

27. (Currently amended) The blood collection kit of claim 26 further comprising

a blood extraction device including an insertion member that is configured to be inserted into the ~~body portion~~ umbilical cord and to withdraw blood therefrom.

28. (Original) The blood collection kit of claim 26 wherein the cradle member is configured and arranged so as to be in the general shape of a hollow tube cut in half along its length and the blood extraction device comprises a needle and syringe.

29. (Original) The blood collection kit of claim 26 wherein the cradle member is configured and arranged so as to be in the general shape of a hollow tube cut in half along its length.

30. (Currently amended) The blood collection kit of claim 26, wherein said another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the cradle member, in which recess is received the ~~body portion~~ umbilical cord and wherein the recess is one of arcuate or polygonal in cross-section.

31. (Currently amended) The blood collection kit of claim 26 wherein the ~~body portion is an umbilical cord and wherein the~~ recess is configured and arranged to receive the umbilical cord therein.

32. (Original) The blood collection kit of claim 27 wherein the blood extraction device comprises a needle and syringe.

33. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of covering at least an end of the insertion member following said withdrawing the insertion member from the body portion.

34. (Currently amended) A method for collection of blood from an umbilical cord (cord blood), comprising:

providing a shield member, one portion of which is configured to be ~~releasably~~ held in one hand of a user and another portion of which is configured to ~~releasably~~

receive the umbilical cord, wherein the another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the shield member, in which is received the umbilical cord and wherein the recess and the one portion are each arcuate in cross-section;

holding ~~[[a]]~~ the shield member with one hand of a user;

positioning the umbilical cord within the shield member such that the shield member is generally disposed between the umbilical cord and the one hand;

stabilizing the umbilical cord within the shield member solely using a digit of the user's hand while holding the shield member using the one hand;

inserting an insertion member of a blood extraction device into the umbilical cord using another hand of the user such that the shield member is generally disposed between the insertion member and the one hand; and

withdrawing the cord blood from the umbilical using the blood extraction device.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 further comprising:

stopping the withdrawal of cord blood; and

withdrawing the insertion member from the umbilical cord.

36. (Currently amended) A shielding device comprising:

a cradle member, the cradle member being configured so one portion thereof is ~~releasably~~ held in a hand of a user, so another portion thereof ~~releasably~~ receives the body portion, and so a digit of the user's hand secures the body portion in the another portion while holding the cradle member;

wherein said another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the cradle member, in which recess is received the body portion;

wherein the recess and said one portion are configured so as to be arcuate in cross-section and

wherein the ~~cradle member~~ shielding device does not include portions for fastening the body member to the ~~cradle member~~ shielding device.

37. (Currently amended) A cord blood collection device kit comprising:

a shielding device including a cradle member, the cradle member being configured and arranged so one portion thereof is ~~releasably~~ held in a hand of a user,

so another portion thereof ~~releasably~~ receives an umbilical cord, and so a digit of the user's hand secures and stabilizes the umbilical cord in said another portion while holding the cradle member;

a needle and syringe to withdraw cord blood from the umbilical cord, the needle being configured to be inserted into the umbilical cord;

wherein said another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the cradle member that is configured and arranged to receive the umbilical cord therein and wherein the recess is arcuate in cross-section and

wherein the ~~cradle member~~ shielding device does not include portions for fastening the umbilical cord to the ~~cradle member~~ shielding device.